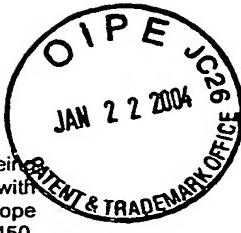


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Jan. 20, 2004.

Sharon L. Tabor
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Attorney Docket No. 740270-2681

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT application of)
John T. CARROLL, III et al.)
Application No. 10/001,784) Group Art Unit: 3754
Filed: December 5, 2001) Examiner: Joseph A. Kaufman
Confirmation No. 2232)
For: OUTWARDLY OPENING, SEAT)
SEALED, FORCE BALANCED,)
HYDRAULIC VALVE AND)
ACTUATOR ASSEMBLY)

#5/a
1/29/04
R. Premer
JMK

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed August 19, 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

01/27/2004 WABDEL1 00000065 192380 10001784

02 FC:1201 172.00 DA
03 FC:1202 36.00 DA